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As heating season approaches, now is the time to Be WinterWise

October 21, 2015 – Now that temperatures have dipped to the freezing level, the Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE) encourages utility customers to [Be WinterWise](#) and cut winter heating bills.

“While some have predicted Michigan will have mild winter temperatures because of a strong El Nino weather pattern developing, it is always wise to lower utility bills by reducing energy waste,” said Valerie Brader, MAE’s executive director. “The Be WinterWise website has been updated and is an excellent resource for tips on how to reduce energy usage, how to avoid shut-offs, and ways to get assistance with bills.”

The [website](#) includes:

- Low-cost ways to reduce energy usage
- Energy assistance programs designed to prevent shut-offs, including:
 - Winter Protection Plans for senior citizens and low-income customers
 - State Emergency Relief
 - Medical emergency shut-off protection
 - Shut-off protection for active duty military personnel or their spouse
 - Information on grants from the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)
 - Information on agencies that provide MEAP assistance by calling 2-1-1
- Home Heating Credit
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Lifeline discount telephone service program for low-income customers
- Earned income credit

The Be WinterWise website is located at: Michigan.gov/BeWinterWise

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